Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 SY-05 HA-05 FBIE-00 CA-01 INRE-00 /057 W -------040746 131402Z /72

O 131349Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3010 INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, PEPR, PROP, UR, US

SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA ARTICLE ON PETERSON INCIDENT

REF: MOSCOW 13462

- 1. DURING JUNE 13 MEETING WITH MFA COUNSELOR V. F. ISAKOV, ACTING POL COUNSELOR DELIVERED ORAL STATEMENT ON VIOLATION OF PRINCIPLE OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF PRIVATE DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WHICH OCCURRED IN SEMENOV ARTICLE "FOR WHOSE BENEFIT" (REFTEL).
- 2. ACTING POL COUNSELOR POINTED OUT THAT PRINCIPLE WAS CLEARLY VIOLATED BY PUBLICATION OF WHAT WERE REPRESENTED AS DIRECT QUOTATIONS OF REMARKS MADE BY AMBASSADOR TOON DURING AN OFFICIAL MEETING WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO, SINCE SUCH QUOTATIONS COULD HAVE BEEN OBTAINED BY AUTHOR ONLY FROM MFA. A/POL COUNSELOR RESERVED COMMENT ON OTHER ASPECTS OF IZVESTIYA ARTICLE, BUT STATED THAT IF MFA'S PRACTICE IS TO PUBLISH IN SOVIET NEWS MEDIA ITS VERSIONS OF EXCHANGES AT OFFICIAL MEETINGS, THIS PRACTICE WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN FUTURE CONVERSATIONS AT THE MINISTRY.

3. ISAKOV REPLIED THAT THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE WAS FREE TO WRITE WHATEVER HE WANTED. HE ADDED THAT SOVIET UNION HAD MANY REASONS TO BE INDIGNANT ABOUT U.S. BEHAVIOR IN CASES INVOLVING CONFIDENTIALITY, INCLUDING

SUMMIT MEETINGS AND OFFICIAL TALKS, CONCLUDING THAT IT WAS NOT FOR U.S. SIDE TO POINT OUT WHO IS UNDERMINING CONFIDENTIALITY.

4. A/POL COUNSELOR SAID THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS PAST HISTORY. DIRECT QUOTATIONS IN THIS CASE COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM MFA AND U.S. SIDE REGARDED THIS AS SERIOUS MATTER. TOON

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Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS

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Subject: IZVESTIYA ARTICLE ON PETERSON INCIDENT

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, PEPR, PROP, UR, US

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